

The Short Circuit

<http://www.avarc.av.org>



The official publication of the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club

July 2008

President's Corner

Jon Clark N6NQ

HELP! HELP! HELP!!

Here I sit, writing my July column and I'm late. Late enough that I'm making people unhappy and frustrated. The "Short-Circuit" will probably arrive to you late because I'm late. I hope that this does not cause too many an inconvenience or that you miss a meeting because your newsletter is late in getting to you. If that is the case, I sincerely apologize. Too much is going on this month in in the non-ham portion of my life and I let my priorities get mixed up again.

Being late and having received a kind and polite reminder, I was desperate to find something to write about. I did some searching for story ideas in other club newsletters on the Internet. I did not find the story I was looking for. Before I found that idea, I stumbled onto two club web sites where they were having problems getting enough contributions to keep their newsletter going. One club had suspended their newsletter, for the time being. The other had changed to a quarterly publication.

This was a sad discovery. It reminded me too much of the situation our club has been in from time to time. We sometimes have been short of adequate input and I've certainly been late a couple of times. The problem is that too few

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UNITED WE STAND

Meeting Notice

Thursday, July 3, at 7:30 pm, will be the next meeting of AVARC, in the Primrose Room of the Larry Chimbole Center in Palmdale. Talk-in is available on 146.73 MHz. if you need directions.

This month's meeting will feature **David Greenhut N6HD** and our own **Eugene Humpherys KG6SLC**. The topic is ARES and the opportunities and chances to be involved in local emergency communications and drills. We will follow up with a short post-Field Day discussion.



From The Veep

Margie Hoffman KG6TBR

This year is half over and I have been thinking of what we have accomplished so far and what is to come. We have had some really great guest speakers come up with incredible presentations. In doing so, I think we have learned about what each of them has to contribute to our world of Amateur Radio and how they incorporate that into both their hobby and daily life. I know that with each one, I go home having learned more about the many facets of this great hobby.

Throughout the history of this club, some folks with a lot of talent have walked in our shoes. Recently, I received a telephone call on the evening of March 30, 2008 from a gentleman who now lives in Reno, Nevada. There may be a few of our old timers in this club who may remember him. His call sign is WB6PRS and his name is Jim Smith. He began our conversation by asking me if I know how our club got the call sign of K6OX. I told him I did not know the answer and he proceeded to tell me a story. Jim was approximately 12 years old and had studied for his novice license and was all ready to take his test sometime prior to 1968. His mentor was Richard Knowles. Just a week before Jim was to go and take the test, he received a phone call from Richard's wife who told him that Richard had passed away. Jim was pretty upset and wasn't sure if he could go ahead, but he decided to do this and he got his first ham license. Later that year, several members of the club pursued the callsign of Dick and with his wife's permission, the club obtained the call sign in memory of Richard Knowles.

I spoke with Jim Smith for a while and he mentioned numerous names of former club members. He found my name and located us through a recent contact last

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From the Secretary's Desk



AVARC General Meeting 5 June 2008

Opening: John Clark (N6NQ) called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

The flag salute was conducted. Introductions and roll call followed. Thirty-two individuals participated. A motion was made to accept the May **meeting minutes** as published in the newsletter. Motion approved and minutes accepted. Treasurer Don Jackson (K6GET) presented the **Treasurer's report:** Current funds: \$4,903.11.

Old business:

WB6X antenna: Keith (K6GXO). Club members recently contributed \$160 for court expenses. We are one of 3 groups providing donations. Individuals wishing to contribute should contact Keith.

VE Session: Adrienne Sherwood (WA6YEO). June test sessions produced 6 new licensees. The date for the July test session may be changed. (See club web site for details.)

Baker to Vegas: Eugene (KG6SLC) submitted an article to QST describing our experiences at B2V stage 15.

CW Net: Jon. Planning for CW net is moving forward. Individuals expressed interest.

New business:

Board member: Jon indicated Chris Aberle has relocated out of state, creating a vacancy on board. Jon asked for volunteers to fill the opening. Larry (AF6GF) stepped forward. A motion was made to nominate Larry. Since Larry has not been a club member for one year, the motion was withdrawn. A second motion was made to table the election of the replacement board member until August. Motion was passed.

ARRL: A motion made to pay our club ARRL dues. Motions passed.

Antenna parties:

Keith is having a trailer party Saturday, 7 June, at his QTH. Individuals invited to arrive at 8:00 am. Doughnuts will be provided!

Ron is having antenna party Saturday and Sunday, 7 & 8 June, at his ranch. (Ron's QTH has 15 antennas to play with!)

. **Break **** Refreshments **** Sale of raffle tickets for the evening 50/50 *****

Presentation - Field Day: Margie Hoffman (KG6TBR) shared slides from prior Field Day events. Plans for this year were discussed. A motion was made and passed to support a field day barbecue.

Raffle: The 50/50 raffle was conducted.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carol Humpherys KI6DWE
AVARC Secretary 2008



From the VEEP...

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fall when he worked Gary Barr on 75 meters. After that Gary sent Jim a copy of the Short Circuit. Jim had many more stories to tell me and I could go on and on.

**** BUT THAT'S ANOTHER STORY !**

73,

Margie KG6TBR

Swap Shop

RADIO EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

Icom 707 All Band H/F 100 Watts 12 V

Realistic HTXx!00 25 Watt SSB/CW 10 Meter 12 V

Power Supplies
Astron 12DC 20 AMP Metered
Astron 12DC 30 AMP Metered

P/C Electronics
AT-1
ATV Transverter 10 Watts
Fast scan Dual Freq 438 - 426 MHZ
450 MHZ Ant. Required

Equipment Approximately 5 - 7 years old.
All in good condition.

Reasonable offers accepted. 661-435-9516 or
805 658 0834
e mail hats002136@aol.com

73 K6CEV
John, Past President 83
MV / Ventura

TOWER FOR SALE

This is a three section, 51 foot, medium duty, self supporting, crank-up tower. It does require a concrete base to anchor the tower. It is hot-dipped, galvanized steel construction. It comes with the fixed base, with reinforced rebar to be placed into the concrete base. A detailed mechanical drawing of the tower can be viewed at: <http://www.tashtowers.com/crankup.html> Asking \$800. Bill W2WHC bcrews56@verizon.net or 661-816-9115

For Sale: HEIL Handi Mic, model HM-5 Compact Microphone. Prewired for Kenwood radios with modular RJ-15 type connector. Could be used with most other rigs, (except ICOM), if a different plug is wired on. Brand new in the box. \$65.00.

Motorola Spectrum VHF Mobile VHF antennas. 5/8 wave, high-quality commercial-grade units made in the USA. These will work for 2-meters. Includes RADIALL/LARSEN NMO thru-hole mounts and coax kits. New in shipping tubes. \$25.00 each.

Contact Dan Sherwood, WA6PZK at (661) 264-1863.

President's Corner...

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of us contribute to the newsletter. When one or more of us runs into other distractions in our life, we end up with a situation like this month. The other effect caused by having too few contribute to the newsletter, is that it probably gets stale. With just Margie and I to contribute columns and Carol to contribute the minutes from the meetings, the newsletter has or will become one-dimensional.

So, HELP! HELP! HELP! An occasional article from anyone in the club would be most helpful and make the newsletter more interesting. Maybe a one time article about your favorite ham subject or a short series. Here's a list of things that might be interesting to see in the newsletter:

- 1) A report on upcoming DX opportunities.
- 2) Upcoming contest events.
- 3) Some do-it-yourself projects.
- 4) Proposals for club activities.
- 5) Ideas for articles would even be a help. With an idea about something, we might be able to find a volunteer.

I'll try to be earlier next month, but let's all be thinking about what we might be able to contribute to the "Short-Circuit" a more interesting newsletter.

73,

Jon N6NQ



Ham Sandwich

by
Larry Bianchi AF6CF

The Ham Sandwich is a quiet corner of the Short Circuit spotlighting one or two Hams from the club and making a Ham Sandwich with their info and giving everyone an opportunity to get to know them a bit better.

This month, the Short Circuit will focus on Michael W. Beck KI6HUR.

Michael, a resident of Lancaster, got his ticket in Feb of 2007 and upgraded to General in April of the same year. He can be heard most everyday on frequency and is an active member of our club. His interests include emergency communications and is a member of both ARES and CERT.

He is quite active in his Church and has a strong desire to be of service should a catastrophe hit. With ham radio, Michael "...was introduced to so many other ways to serve the people of the Antelope Valley...".

Michael is quite interested in the technical aspects of ham radio and would enjoy seeing more "hands on" activities during our club meetings.

On a more personal note, Michael met his sweet wife, Kathleen, when he was 23 and she was 17. They were married

15 months later, and are blessed with four children. Kathleen is also a ham, KI6PRH, getting her ticket in April of this year, and can be heard from time to time on frequency. Michael started out in the film industry as an actor and now works as an Aircraft Design Engineer. His eldest son is preparing to serve his Church for 2 years as a Missionary.

It is always a pleasure to chat and hear Michael on frequency as he always adds to the conversation.



Michael W. Beck KI6HUR

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To ARS: